

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
January 7, 2016

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room, of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Mike Nonni, Charles Tirone, Susan Chapnick, Catherine Garnett and Curt Connors. Member Janine White and Associate Eileen Coleman were not present. Also present was Bruce Whelte.

7:30pm – Commission Business:

Mr. Connors asked if there were reimbursement funds for attending the **MACC Annual Conference** in March. The Education fund could be used for this purpose.

The Commission discussed the composition of the **Annual Report** due on Jan. 15.

Mr. White announced the invitation to the new **Connecting Arlington** program initiated by the Open Space Committee to organize new walking routes in East Arlington on Sept. 14 at the Fox Library.

The **Waterbodies** report will be forwarded to the Finance Committee. The Spy Pond Committee appreciated the report. The question was raised who will sponsor projects for other waterbodies.

Mr. Stevens will contact the Finance Committee to set up date / time for Waterbodies Report presentation (will copy Town Manager and Selectmen).

DWhite/Connors motioned to cosponsor (along with Reservoir Committee and the Spy Pond Committee) the **Waterbodies warrant article**; motion passed unanimously.

Related to waterbodies funding, Mr. White will attend the Board of Selectmen's meeting next Monday to update them on the ACROSS Lexington paths in Arlington and renew our request to have them ask the Town of Lexington to contribute to the cost of invasive aquatic plant removal at the Reservoir; this follows a letter the Commission sent to the Selectmen on these topics.

7:45pm **Discussion** - Spy Pond shoreline stabilization project

Ms. Garnett is working on the 30% RFP. 4 RFPs are being solicited. One will be selected for the CPC application. This due to the CPC by 2/22. The scope is narrower, and will include survey, use study, a public meeting/presentation. Mr. Tirone agreed to review application prior to submittal.

Commission Business (cont.):

Mr. Tirone reported on the **Community Preservation (Act) Committee**. The application is posted on their webpage. They are drafting a mission statement and Mr.

Tirone would like feedback/edits from the Conservation Commission. Mr. Stevens did have feedback that the Open Space section should emphasize the vital connection of people to the land, as outdoor classroom, as well as for habitat connectivity. The Conservation Commission should compose a list of projects for consideration of these funds, but also for other budget monies. This list could include: Spy Pond Park shoreline, Cookes Hollow (without the cemetery aspects), Mystic Riverfront Restoration. The Commission also discussed private ways for accesses and connections to open spaces and resource areas, similar to the program called Complete Streets. Commission discussed submitting projects to Capital Planning so that the Conservation Commission projects may be more "visible".

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator